

Serial No. 10/773,107
60130-2016: 02MRA0393

REMARKS

The Examiner objected to claim 16 as depending upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. The features of claim 16 has been added to claim 1.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bertolini et al. (6,029,403). Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nishikawa et al. (6,449,907). Claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertolini et al. (6,029,403) in view of Nishikawa et al. (6,449,907). The features of claim 16, which the Examiner indicated as allowable, have been added to claim 1. Therefore, the claimed invention is allowable.

Thus, claims 1-15 and 17 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.

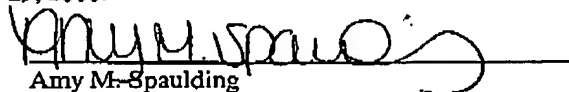


Karin H. Butchko
Registration No. 45,864
400 West Maple Road, Suite 350
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
Telephone: (248) 988-8360
Facsimile: (248) 988-8363

Dated: March 29, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 571-273-8300 on March 29, 2006.


Amy M. Spaulding